

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus comprising:

a first image forming portion for forming an image
on a normal image display medium;

5 a second image forming portion for forming an image
on a reversible image display medium; and

a medium type detecting device for detecting
whether an image display medium to be used for image
formation is the normal image display medium or the
10 reversible image display medium, wherein

the image formation on the normal image display
medium by the first image forming portion is allowed
when the medium type detecting device detects the
normal type of the image display medium, and the image
15 formation on the reversible image display medium by the
second image forming portion is allowed when the medium
type detecting device detects the reversible type of
the image display medium.

20 2. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein

one or more said medium type detecting devices are
provided, and at least one of said medium type
detecting devices detects whether the image display
25 medium to be used for image formation is the normal

image display medium or the reversible image display medium, based on a medium type display portion provided at the image display medium accommodated in a cassette attached to a cassette attaching portion provided in
5 the image forming apparatus.

3. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

one or more said medium type detecting devices are
10 provided, and at least one of said medium type detecting devices detects whether the image display medium to be used for image formation is the normal image display medium or the reversible image display medium, based on a medium type display portion provided
15 at an image display medium accommodating cassette attached to a cassette attaching portion provided in the image forming apparatus.

4. The image forming apparatus according to claim 2,
20 wherein

two or more said cassette attaching portions are provided, and said medium type detecting device is provided for each of said cassette attaching portions.

5. The image forming apparatus according to claim 3,
wherein

two or more said cassette attaching portions are
provided, and said medium type detecting device is
5 provided for each of said cassette attaching portions.

6. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1,
further comprising:

an image data storing portion for storing image
10 data, wherein

each of said first and second image forming
portions can perform the image formation based on the
image data stored in said image data storing portion.

7. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1,
further comprising:

an image data converting portion for forming
converted image data used for image formation on the
reversible image display medium from image data,
20 wherein said second image forming portion can perform
the image formation on the reversible image display
medium in accordance with the converted image data
prepared by said image data converting portion.

8. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1,
further comprising:

an image data storing portion for storing image
data; and

5 an image data converting portion for forming image
data used for image formation on the reversible image
display medium from the image data stored in said image
data storing portion, wherein

said first image forming portion can perform the
10 image formation on the normal image display medium in
accordance with the image data stored in said image
data storing portion, and said second image forming
portion can perform the image formation on the
reversible image display medium in accordance with
15 converted image data prepared by said image data
converting portion.

9. The image forming apparatus according to claim 6,
further comprising:

20 a display portion for displaying an image data name,
an image data selecting portion for selecting the image
data to be used for the image formation based on the
image data name displayed on said display portion, and
an image formation instruction portion for instructing
25 the image formation based on the selected image data.

10. The image forming apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising:

5 a display portion for displaying an image data name,
an image data selecting portion for selecting the image data to be used for the image formation based on the image data name displayed on said display portion, and an image formation instruction portion for instructing the image formation based on the selected image data.

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11. An image forming apparatus comprising:

a first image forming portion for forming an image on a normal image display medium;

15 a second image forming portion for forming an image on a reversible image display medium; and

an element setting switching device for switching setting of at least one of image forming elements of said first and second image forming portions, wherein

20 a standard mode is determined to perform the image formation on the normal image display medium or the image formation on the reversible image display medium, and at least one of the image forming elements of said first and second image forming portions is set to a standard state in the standard mode for forming an
25 image on the normal image display medium or the

reversible image display medium corresponding to the standard mode, and

said element setting switching device can switch and set the standard state setting of said image

5 forming element(s) to a non-standard state for forming an image on the image display medium not corresponding to the standard mode when the image formation is to be effected on the image display medium not corresponding to the standard mode.

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12. The image forming apparatus according to claim 11, wherein

the image display medium corresponding to said standard mode is the normal image display medium, and

15 the image display medium not corresponding to the standard mode is the reversible image display medium.

13. An image forming apparatus comprising:

20 a first image forming portion for forming an image on a normal image display medium;

a second image forming portion for forming an image on a reversible image display medium;

a standard mode setting device for selecting, as a standard mode, the image formation on the normal image display medium or the image formation on the reversible

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image display medium, and setting at least one of image forming elements of said first and second image forming portions to a standard state for forming an image on the image display medium corresponding to the standard mode; and

an element setting switching device for switching and setting the standard state setting of the image forming element(s) to a non-standard state for image formation on the image display medium not corresponding to the standard mode when the image formation is to be effected on the image display medium not corresponding to the standard mode.

14. The image forming apparatus according to claim 11, wherein

said element setting switching device includes a medium type detecting device for detecting whether an image display medium to be used for image formation is the image display medium corresponding to the standard mode or the image display medium not corresponding to the standard mode, and being configured to switch and set the standard state setting of the image forming element(s) to the non-standard setting allowing image formation on the image display medium not corresponding to the standard mode when the medium type detecting

device detects the image display medium not
corresponding to the standard mode.

15. The image forming apparatus according to claim
5 13, wherein

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10 said element setting switching device includes a
medium type detecting device for detecting whether an
image display medium to be used for image formation is
the image display medium corresponding to the standard
15 mode or the image display medium not corresponding to
the standard mode, and being configured to switch and
set the standard state setting of the image forming
element(s) to the non-standard setting allowing image
formation on the image display medium not corresponding
15 to the standard mode when the medium type detecting
device detects the image display medium not
corresponding to the standard mode.

16. The image forming apparatus according to claim
20 14, wherein

one or more said medium type detecting devices are
provided, and at least one of said medium type
detecting devices detects whether an image display
medium to be used for image formation is the image
25 display medium corresponding to the standard mode or

the image display medium not corresponding to the
standard mode, based on a medium type display portion
provided at the image display medium accommodated in a
cassette attached to a cassette attaching portion
5 provided in the image forming apparatus.

17. The image forming apparatus according to claim
15, wherein

one or more said medium type detecting devices are
10 provided, and at least one of said medium type
detecting devices detects whether an image display
medium to be used for image formation is the image
display medium corresponding to the standard mode or
the image display medium not corresponding to the
15 standard mode, based on a medium type display portion
provided at the image display medium accommodated in a
cassette attached to a cassette attaching portion
provided in the image forming apparatus.

20 18. The image forming apparatus according to claim
14, wherein

one or more said medium type detecting devices are
provided, and at least one of said medium type
detecting devices detects whether an image display
25 medium to be used for image formation is the image

display medium corresponding to the standard mode or
the image display medium not corresponding to the
standard mode, based on a medium type display portion
provided at an image display medium accommodating
5 cassette attached to a cassette attaching portion
provided in the image forming apparatus.

19. The image forming apparatus according to claim
15, wherein

10 one or more said medium type detecting devices are
provided, and at least one of said medium type
detecting devices detects whether an image display
medium to be used for image formation is the image
display medium corresponding to the standard mode or
15 the image display medium not corresponding to the
standard mode, based on a medium type display portion
provided at an image display medium accommodating
cassette attached to a cassette attaching portion
provided in the image forming apparatus.

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20. The image forming apparatus according to claim
11, wherein

said element setting switching device includes a
switching instructing portion for switching the setting
25 from the standard state setting to the non-standard

state setting by an operator such that the standard
state setting of said image forming element(s) can be
changed to the non-standard state for forming an image
on the image display medium not corresponding to the
5 standard mode in accordance with a switching
instruction by said switching instructing portion for
changing the standard state setting to the non-standard
state setting.

10 21. The image forming apparatus according to claim
13, wherein

said element setting switching device includes a
switching instructing portion for switching the setting
from the standard state setting to the non-standard
15 state setting by an operator such that the standard
state setting of said image forming element(s) can be
changed to the non-standard state for forming an image
on the image display medium not corresponding to the
standard mode in accordance with a switching
20 instruction by said switching instructing portion for
changing the standard state setting to the non-standard
state setting.

25 22. The image forming apparatus according to claim
11, wherein

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said element setting switching device includes an image data type designating portion for switching the setting from the standard state setting of the image forming element(s) to the non-standard state allowing the image formation on the image display medium not corresponding to the standard mode when an image information input portion outside said image forming apparatus applies a predetermined kind of image data input operation to the apparatus, and the non-standard state is set when said image information input portion applies the predetermined kind of image data input operation to the apparatus while said image data type designating portion designates said predetermined image data type.

23. The image forming apparatus according to claim 13, wherein

said element setting switching device includes an image data type designating portion for switching the setting from the standard state setting of the image forming element(s) to the non-standard state allowing the image formation on the image display medium not corresponding to the standard mode when an image information input portion outside said image forming apparatus applies a predetermined kind of image data

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input operation to the apparatus, and the non-standard state is set when said image information input portion applies the predetermined kind of image data input operation to the apparatus while said image data type designating portion designates said predetermined image data type.

24. The image forming apparatus according to claim 11, wherein

10 said element setting switching device includes a data sender designating portion for switching the setting from the standard state setting of said image forming element(s) to the non-standard state allowing image formation on the image display medium not
15 corresponding to the standard mode upon input of image data from a predetermined image data sender, and the non-standard state is set in response to the input of the image data from said predetermined image data sender designated by the sender designating portion
20 while said sender designating portion designates said predetermined image data sender.

25. The image forming apparatus according to claim 13, wherein

standard state setting under predetermined conditions after switching from the standard state setting to the non-standard state setting.

5 28. The image forming apparatus according to claim 11, wherein

 said first image forming portion for forming the image on the normal image display medium is of an electrophotographic type and is configured to form the
10 image by forming an electrostatic latent image corresponding to the image to be displayed on an electrostatic latent image carrier, developing the electrostatic latent image into a toner image and transferring the toner image onto the normal image
15 display medium for fixing the same, and

 said second image forming portion for forming the image on the reversible image display medium is configured to form the image on the reversible image display medium of an electric field drive type by
20 forming an electrostatic latent image corresponding to the image to be displayed on said electrostatic latent image carrier, transferring the electrostatic latent image onto or moving the electrostatic latent image closer to or into contact with the surface of the
25 reversible image display medium of the electric field

drive type, and forming an electric field corresponding to the image to be displayed on the reversible image display medium based on the electrostatic latent image.

5 29. The image forming apparatus according to claim 13, wherein

 said first image forming portion for forming the image on the normal image display medium is of an electrophotographic type and is configured to form the
10 image by forming an electrostatic latent image corresponding to the image to be displayed on an electrostatic latent image carrier, developing the electrostatic latent image into a toner image and transferring the toner image onto the normal image
15 display medium for fixing the same, and

 said second image forming portion for forming the image on the reversible image display medium is configured to form the image on the reversible image display medium of an electric field drive type by
20 forming an electrostatic latent image corresponding to the image to be displayed on said electrostatic latent image carrier, transferring the electrostatic latent image onto or moving the electrostatic latent image closer to or into contact with the surface of the
25 reversible image display medium of the electric field

drive type, and forming an electric field corresponding
to the image to be displayed on the reversible image
display medium based on the electrostatic latent image.

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